

THE NEWS THE GOSS THE PICS THE SPORT

DAILY STAR

MONDAY, DECEMBER 20, 2004 SIMPLY THE BEST 7 DAYS A WEEK 35p

**HAVE A HOT
DATE WITH
MYLEENE**



PAGE 8

Kerry's Merry Kissmas



EXCLUSIVE PAGE 7

REVEALED

**Third man
in Blunkett
love triangle**

PAGE 4



Picture: SHEILA ROCK

DRUGS ROMP SOAP STAR AXED

EXCLUSIVE

SHAMED Corrie hunk Jimmi Harkishin is to be axed from the top TV soap after he was caught on film snorting cocaine.
Full story:
Page 5



Play must go on

A THEATRE hit by riots was urged last night NOT to abandon its black comedy depicting murder and sexual abuse in a Sikh temple.

Lib-Dem MP Dr Evan Harris spoke out as Birmingham Rep counted the cost of an invasion by hundreds of protesters enraged by the production

Behzti - Punjabi for dishonour. Dr Harris said anger had been aggravated by Labour plans for controversial laws against inciting race hate.

He said it was "vital for free speech" that the play went on. Behzti has been slammed by Brum's Roman Catholic archbishop Vincent Nichols.



Picture: NEWTEAM.CO.UK

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MINISTER IN 'MAFIA CULT'

Kelly linked to secret sect

by IAIN BURCHELL
RUTH Kelly, the new Education Secretary, is part of an extreme religious sect, it was revealed yesterday.

She regularly attends meetings of the cult-like Opus Dei organisation - featured in the best-selling thriller The Da Vinci Code.

Some members of the secretive Roman Catholic movement are said to have strong links with fascism and the Mafia.

Plot

They are fiercely opposed to abortion and euthanasia. Asked about Ms Kelly's involvement with the group, their spokesman confirmed: "She is in contact and attends Opus Dei meetings."

It is not clear if the 36-year-old mother-of-four is a fully-fledged member of the sect which has 500 people on its British list and 80,000 worldwide.

An Education Department spokesman would not comment on the connection yesterday.



MEETINGS: Ruth Kelly

Opus Dei was founded in Spain in the 1920s.

Its highly-secretive nature has given rise to numerous conspiracy theories.

The movement is portrayed as a sinister cult in The Da Vinci Code, an historical thriller about a global plot to suppress truths about Jesus and his mar-

riage to Mary Magdalene. The book is one of the most popular novels of all time with an estimated 17 million copies sold.

It's thought to have made author Dan Brown £140million and it's soon to be made into a movie starring Tom Hanks.

Even before the revelation of Ms Kelly's Opus Dei connection, her ministerial appointment last week infuriated some other female MPs who claim she has leap-frogged more experienced colleagues.

Kick

Another "Blair Babe" fumed: "How has she managed to get so far when she's had so much maternity leave?"

Another female backbencher, elected with Ms Kelly in 1997, blasted: "What has she ever done for Labour?"

"We were the people in the key seats. She was dropped in and had barely been a party member for two years."

"She wouldn't talk to most of us. It was like she regarded herself as one of the 'in girls'."

"Her promotion is just a kick in the teeth."

STAR NEWS



Xmas hot girls

SEE PAGE 21

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| GOSS | 12-13 | TELLY | 28-31 |
| HOT | 16-17 | JANE | 32 |

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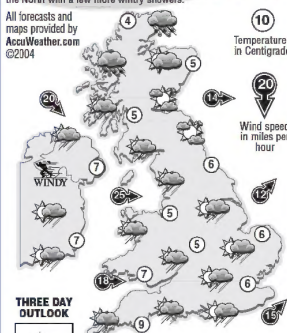
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INFO STATION

TODAY: Feeling cold and breezy across the United Kingdom with wintry showers across the North. Showery rain will spread southwards over England and Wales throughout the day, initially falling as some sleet and snow in northern England and North Wales.

OUTLOOK: Largely dry with bright and sunny intervals over much of the South. A little drizzly rain for south-east England. Cold across the North with a few more wintry showers.

All forecasts and maps provided by AccuWeather.com ©2004



THREE DAY OUTLOOK

Tuesday
Sleet

Wednesday
Snow/rain

Thursday
Windy

POUND ABROAD

| | |
|----------------|---------------|
| Australia | 2.55 dollars |
| Canada | 2.39 dollars |
| Cyprus | 0.85 pounds |
| Czech Republic | 44.57 korunas |
| Mexico | 21.81 pesos |
| South Africa | 11.29 rand |
| Thailand | 76.19 baht |
| Turkey | 2731423 lira |
| United States | 1.94 dollars |

EURO

| | |
|--|--------|
| Austria, Belgium, Finland, France, Germany, Greece, Ireland, Italy, Luxembourg, Holland, Portugal, Spain | € 1.46 |
|--|--------|

ABROAD

| | | | | | |
|------------|----------|-----------|----------|---------|-----------|
| Alicante | sunny | 17C (62F) | Moscow | cloudy | -2C (29F) |
| Corfu | thundery | 14C (57F) | N. York | hurries | -4C (25F) |
| Dublin | showers | 8C (46F) | Nice | fair | 10C (50F) |
| L. Angeles | sunny | 23C (73F) | Paris | fair | 0C (32F) |
| Majorca | fair | 14C (57F) | Rhodes | fair | 15C (59F) |
| Miami | sunny | 17C (62F) | Rome | rain | 11C (52F) |
| | | | Tenerife | sunny | 18C (64F) |

Star Weather

UK National 0905 062 3827

Holiday weather 0905 062 3823

Calls cost 60p/min from a BT landline

LOTTO DAILY PLAY

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 18

1 7 8 13 14 15 17

One ticket matched all 7 balls for the £30,000 prize

SATURDAY LOTTO

DECEMBER 18

5 16 22 25 27 30 33

Four ticket holders share the £4.8m jackpot
EXTRA: 8, 17, 18, 32, 35, 46 T-Ball: 3, 4, 5, 8, 14 (T's 3)
No Extra winners. Two T-Ball winners get £250,000

WEDNESDAY LOTTO

DECEMBER 15

7, 11, 19, 25, 31, 39 Bonus Ball: 23
One ticket won the £2.3m jackpot

EXTRA: 10, 12, 13, 24, 27, 34 T-Ball: 11, 14, 18, 31, 34 (T's 11)
No winners of the £5.5m jackpot. Two T-Ball winners

EURO LOTTO

FRIDAY, DECEMBER 17

15, 19, 22, 46, 48 Lucky Star Numbers: 2, 9
No UK ticket won the £18m jackpot

NEWSPAPERS SUPPORT RECYCLING

Recycled paper made up 65.5% of the new material for UK newspapers in 2000

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MICK JAGGER'S model daughter Jade Jagger is carving a career as a property tycoon. The 33-year-old fashion guru is to build thousands of swanky flats in the UK, US and the Far East.

I'M THE ONLY GAY IN BIG BRUV!

Tatchell set to stir things up in house

EXCLUSIVE by
PETER DYKE

GAY activist Peter Tatchell has been signed to stir things up on Celebrity Big Brother.

In the words of Little Britain's Dafydd, he'll be "the only gay in the house".

But the outspoken campaigner will have closet queens quaking in their boots.

He is famous for outing folk who have been hiding their true sexuality.

Tatchell once claimed there were 60 secret gay and lesbian MPs in Parliament, so his outbursts could give telly censors a legal headache.

A show insider said: "Peter doesn't mince words and he certainly won't hold his tongue on this show."

Shocks

"He has often said he has a whole list of names of celebs and politicians he knows are gay but haven't come out yet."

Gay rights activist Tatchell, 52, will be joining a mixed cast on Channel 4's Celebrity Big Brother, which starts on January 6.

Telly bosses are delighted with the line-up and have promised lots of shocks.

Others signed up include "Son of God" David Icke, 52, racing pundit John McCririck, 64, model Victoria Silvstedt, 30, comic Craig Charles, 40, tragic mother Mandy Allwood, 39, and Cherie Blair's style guru Carole Caplin, 43.

Executive producer Shirley Jones said: "Nothing can prepare our celebrities for Big Brother."

"But rest assured Big Brother is prepared for them."



SO CAMP: Tatchell as Dafydd



Erica

Hayley

PAGE 3
Jingle Belles

CLAP your mince pies on the first of our Christmas week line-up of Jingle Belles. Erica, 23, and Hayley, 21, are bound to have fans going crackers for more.

And the best thing about our pair of early prezzies is that they come just the way readers like them - already unwrapped.



BABES TO YOUR MOBILE

YOU can download a great topless picture of Erica and Hayley direct to your mobile phone by texting **STARBABE** to **88833**. See Page 20

for full details. Downloads cost £1.50 plus your usual network SMS rate. Calls cost £1.50 a minute. Average call length: One minute.

MONTY HAS NEW BIRDIE

GOLF hero Colin Montgomerie has fallen in love with a married mum-of-two.

Monty, 41, has been dating Joanne Baldwin, a pal of ex-wife Elmeer, since his marriage crumbled in April.

Love blossomed when the Ryder Cup hero bumped into 43-year-old Joanne while picking the kids up from school.

He and brunette Joanne spent the night together on Friday.

A close pal said: "He is absolutely besotted - and she feels the same way."

PM out of puck

TONY BLAIR is the man girls would least like to kiss under the mistletoe. EastEnders' Leslie Grantham was second and TV host Bruce Forsyth third in a poll by Marks & Spencer. Robbie Williams was the most popular.

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THE OTHER MAN: Writer Simon Hoggart admits he had an affair with Kimberly Quinn, inset, at the same time as Blunkett

I'M BLUNKO LOVE RIVAL

Journo admits Quinn romps

DAVID Blunkett suffered another blow yesterday as a journalist admitted romping with Kimberly Quinn behind his back.

Married Simon Hoggart confessed he had a fling with the bed-hopping American who also cheated on her husband with the former Home Secretary.

Hoggart - wine correspondent at the Spectator magazine which is published by Quinn - made an incredible U-turn after slamming claims of their affair as "bulls**t".

But he insisted he can't be the father of Quinn's two-year-old son William and unborn baby, who Blunkett says are both his.

The father-of-two, who has been married for 21 years, issued a statement from his London home yesterday saying: "I would like to clarify reports yesterday relating to my friendship with Kimberly Quinn."

■ by IAIN BURCHELL

"Contrary to the impression I gave last night we did have a sexual relationship which started before her marriage but the relationship became very infrequent indeed afterwards."

"I deeply regret the hurt I have caused to my wife and

family." A friend of Quinn, 44, said 57-year-old Hoggart was "besotted" and "didn't mind" about Quinn and Blunkett.

The pal added: "He loved having sex with her and couldn't get enough. He was like a fawning puppy trotting beside his mistress."

Lied


Hoggart - also a political writer for The Guardian - is believed to have stopped seeing Quinn when her affair with former Home Secretary Blunkett was exposed in August.

Distraught Blunkett, 57, faces more humiliation tomorrow.

A report is set to show he misled investigators about his involvement in the fast-tracking of a visa application by Quinn's former nanny, Filipino Leoncia "Luz" Casame.

The Star Says: Page 6
Vanessa Feltz: Page 11

SHOCK: Quinn cheated on Blunkett





SO PROUD: Brunstrom Super cops' salute

■ by JACK BELLAMY
BRITAIN'S best police forces catch 10 times more crooks than the worst ones, say new Home Office figures.

The best detection rate for all crimes is 47% in the western area of North Wales, while the worst is Bristol at 13%.

North Wales chief constable Richard Brunstrom said: "We are truly proud and don't intend to let it slip backwards."

The gap between top and bottom is highlighted by 83% of robberies solved at Heathrow, compared to 8% just across London in Brent.

Victim

And 52% of burglaries are cracked in Newport, Gwent, compared to just 6% in Ealing, London.

Newport is also tops for solving crimes against vehicles, with 43% of offenders nicked against just 3% in the London borough of Lambeth.

The head of Newport CID, Detective Chief Inspector Mark Sutton, said the results were down to "solid police work".

"We investigate every burglary," he said. "An officer always attends."

Many crime experts believe Wales comes out tops because of its "settled communities". The victim and offender may well turn out to be neighbours.

Barrie Irving, of The Police Foundation think tank, said: "The Home Office is using these figures to make people sit up and take notice."

■ HOUSE buyers are being offered discounts of up to £30,000 by developers desperate to sell. New homes in Reigate, Surrey, and Stevenage, Herts, are among the bargains.

Tesco's big save

TESCO is set to topple Asda in the battle to be named Britain's cheapest supermarket chain.

A report showed yesterday that Tesco's £167.84 basket of groceries was cheaper than Asda for the first time - by just 0.4%.

Trade magazine The Grocer, which has carried out the survey, says Asda's seven-year reign as the cheapest UK supermarket could be at an end.

Editor Julian Hunt said: "Asda is, on balance, still the cheapest. But it is going to have to fight even harder to retain its title."

DEV DITCHED

HIGH LIFE: Miranda with Jimmi at the Embassy club in London
Picture: FOX



Corrie will axe cocaine shame star

■ by MARIANNA PARTASIDES, GARY NICKS & JOHN MAHONEY

CORRIE star Jimmi Harkishin is to be axed from the soap in disgrace after being caught snorting cocaine.

Harkishin, who plays Street heart-throb Dev Alahan, was caught on video taking the drug at the flat of his secret lover Miranda Lipinski.

She claimed: "Jimmi's life is ruled by drugs. He just can't get enough cocaine. He's out of control and needs help."

Furious Coronation Street bosses are now planning to sack the star.

They are to meet him this week with the aim of terminating his £100,000-a-year contract which still has 11 months to run.

Chiefs are angry that Jimmi has heaped more shame on the prime-time soap, just weeks after being cautioned for attempted shoplifting. Street sources said supremo Tony Wood was "disgusted" by the latest revelations and has decided he must go.

Pregnant Miranda, who hosts Grab A Grand on the Get Lucky satellite channel, admitted having sex with the star after his cocaine binge.

She said Harkishin, who has two children by long-time partner Susan Beaton, had chatted her up by describing himself as "the Indian David Essex".

Miranda, 25, added: "What's annoying is that he presents himself as a normal family man. But he sneaks away from them for coke and sex sessions on the side."

Scandals

Last night Harkishin, 39, was lying low as his career lay in ruins. There was no sign of him at his Manchester flat or family home in north London - and his betrayed partner Susan stayed out of sight at their shabby terraced house in Holloway.

The couple's son Raj, 16, told the Daily Star he was "shocked" by the drug allegations, which had hit the family hard.

It's the latest in a string of scandals to hit Harkishin. Last month he was cautioned by police after he allegedly swapped the price tag on a jumper in a bid to save £35 in a London shopping centre.

And in October, the wayward actor - who joined the soap in 1999 - had a fierce on-set bust-up with bosses, screaming at them: "You can stuff your job!"

But it is his wild nights on the party circuit that have really landed Harkishin in trouble. He has been linked with up to six girls in the past few months alone, fuelling his reputation for being as much of a womaniser as his Corrie character.

When he was first seen with ex-porn star Miranda at the swanky London Embassy club, he told TV chiefs he had never seen her before or since.

A senior production source said: "It doesn't look good for Jimmi, to put it mildly. He's gone too far this time and he's dragging the show's reputation down with him."

Miranda said of Harkishin: "He said the Corrie cast hated him and so did the press. He even said he wanted me to marry him."

"He'd like to think he was a great lover but he was very average."

She added: "My worst nightmare would be if he is the father of my child."

**The Star Says: Page 6
Soapie Star: Page 19**



ALL FIRED UP: Dev and Sunita



SMOOTHIE: With Tracy Barlow



LUSTY: Dev seduces Deidre

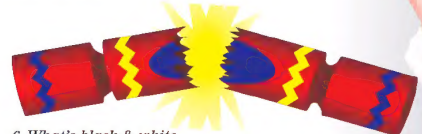
Don't find these funny? Pull the other one... YULE CRACKER UP

IF the Christmas rush is already driving you crackers then we've come up with some early festive cheer. We've trawled the vaults for some of the corniest Christmas cracker gags to make sure you start your celebrations with a bang. Julian Reed, founder of Christmas cracker makers Robin Reed, reckons we Brits love the famously naff jokes. He admitted: "We've actually

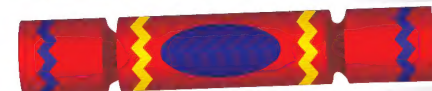
had complaints after trying to introduce more genuinely amusing gags." Here are 25 of the traditional teasers to mark December 25 – and they are sure to make you giggle...or groan.



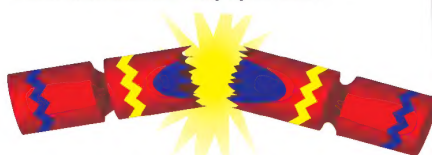
1. Heard about the Dutch Father Christmas who wore inflatable shoes? He popped his clogs.
2. A man walks into a bar with a roll of Tarmac under his arm and says: "A pint for me and one for the road."
3. What is the best way for a man to drown his troubles? Take the wife swimming.
4. Why did the builder get out his stepladder? He didn't get on with his real one.
5. How does Bob Marley like his doughnuts? With jam-in.



6. What's black & white and eats like a horse? A Zebra.
7. What do you call Santa's little helpers? Subordinate Clauses.
8. Why do women have orgasms? It gives them an extra reason to moan.
9. Why does a golfer always carry two pairs of trousers? In case he gets a hole in one.
10. What do you get if you cross a river with a bike? Wet feet.
11. How do you make David Beckham laugh on Boxing Day? Tell him a joke on Christmas Eve.



12. How does Good King Wenceslas like his pizzas? Deep pan, crisp and even.
13. A sandwich tries to order a drink in a bar. The barman says: "I'm very sorry, but we don't serve food in here."
14. What will they do if the Forth Road Bridge collapses? Build a fifth one.
15. Customer: Waiter! Waiter! This egg's bad. Waiter: Don't blame me. I only lay the tables.



16. A nose walks into a bar and asks for a pint. The barman says: "I can't serve you, you're off your face."
17. What happened to the hyena that swallowed an Oxo cube? He made a laughing stock of himself.
18. Why did the chicken run onto the football pitch? Because the ref blew for a foul.
19. Did you hear about the man who drowned in a bowl of muesli? The currant pulled him under.
20. What award was given to the man who invented the door knocker? The No Bell Prize.



21. Why don't aliens eat clowns? Because they taste funny.
22. Two snowmen are standing in a field. One says to the other: "Funny, I can smell carrots too."
23. What's the most popular gardening magazine in the world? Weeder's Digest.
24. Customer: "Waiter! What's wrong with this fish?" Waiter: "Long time, no sea."
25. Why is it difficult to keep a secret at the North Pole? Because your teeth chatter.

SLAP AND TICKLED: If you pull a cracker like this, you'll be laughing



DAILY
Star
says

Three's a crowd

HATS off to Kimberly Quinn. What a girl!

To say David Blunkett didn't choose his lover wisely is the understatement of the year.

She not only pushed him out of the Home Office with her claim that he fast-tracked her nanny's visa.

Now it has emerged she was actually two-timing him.

In fact, Kimberly had THREE men on the go at the same time – her hubby, Blunko and journalist Simon Hoggart.

Who knows where she found the time and energy to keep them all happy?

Blunkett's involvement with such a good-time girl suggests the former Home Secretary lacked judgment.

Tomorrow we'll find out more about his character when the Budd report into the Nannygate visa scandal is revealed.

If it finds evidence that Mr Blunkett abused his power and then tried to cover it up, then there can be only one conclusion:

There can be no quick comeback to another top job for such a deluded man.

The riddle of Jimmi

WHAT is it with the showbiz world and cocaine?

If the luvvies need yet another warning, here is the sad case of Coronation Street star Jimmi Harkishin.

This popular, cheeky-chappie actor is to be axed from his £100,000-a-year role after he was caught snorting the Class A drug.

He is the latest addition to the drug-taking roll of shame.

Remember John Leslie, Angus Deayton and Danniella Westbrook?

As he copes with the shattering loss of his career, Harkishin should remember the misery drugs heap on thousands of people every year.

And that he held a position as a role model for millions of young fans.

Kerryin' on

IT'S been a tough year for Kerry Katona.

No one deserves a sunshine break like she does.

Let's hope she has a happier new year!



POP OFFERS: Amanda

Holden on for big day

TELLY beauty Amanda Holden has put her wedding on hold to try her hand at the pop business. The Cutting It star, 33, got engaged to music producer Chris Hughes a few weeks ago and planned to tie the knot next year.

But now she wants to take time out to follow a career in music after being flooded with offers.

Amanda - who starred in West End show Thoroughly Modern Millie earlier this year - also wants to give future husband Chris, 30, a break from the limelight.

Triumph

She said: "We've decided to put things on hold for at least a year and a half. Chris needs time to get over all the interest in our engagement."

Amanda also wants to follow up offers from record bosses after her theatre triumph earlier this year.

Her spokeswoman said: "Amanda has been approached by a couple of record companies since the show and wants to try to follow that up."

"She's not going to try to be the next Kylie, though - telly is still her first love."

BIKER IN HIT-RUN HORROR

A PUB boss admitted knocking down a biker - after finding his victim's severed left foot embedded in his bumper.

Richard Sholl, 37, lost part of his leg when 23-year-old Peter Dearing's Volvo ploughed into his motorcycle.

Learner driver Dearing sped off from the scene in Blackburn, Lancs.

He later pulled into a pub car park and found Mr Sholl's foot stuck in his bumper.

Dearing, of Read, near Burnley, Lancs, faces jail after admitting careless driving and other motoring offences. Magistrates in Blackburn adjourned sentencing for reports.

SUSPECT BUGGED

BURGLARY suspect Mark Rogerson, 33, was tried in his cell in Portsmouth because he has the MRSA hospital superbug.

SHE'S FRAN-TASTIC SAYS JUNGLE HUNK

JETTING OFF: Kerry is taking a festive holiday with sexy Fran



Cosgrave takes Kerry on hot hol

EXCLUSIVE

■ by MARIANNA PARTASIDES

TROUBLED Kerry Katona is flying off for a sunshine break with TV jungle hunk Fran Cosgrave - leaving her kids with estranged husband Brian McFadden for Christmas.

And last night friends claimed that Fran, who's an old pal, is falling for the blonde babe.

A close friend said: "I get the impression he is quite into her and wants something more - especially from what Kerry has told me."

"Fran is smitten but Kerry, understandably, is reluctant to commit at the moment after all that's gone on with Brian and her old flame Dan Corsi."

"Perhaps the chance to relax with sun and sand will bring them even closer." Curvy Kerry, 24, has been boosted by daily visits from Fran - who starred in telly's I'm A Celebrity - while she's been staying at The Priory clinic to recover from the breakdown of her marriage.

Fran, 26, has a baby with Kerry's former Atomic Kittens bandmate Natasha Hamilton.

The hunk has sent Kerry flowers, taken her for a meal and kept her spirits up with texts and phone calls.

"He's spending so much time with her there is obviously something there," the friend added.

"They do get on because they've known each other for so long."

Now Kerry has agreed to fly off to Spain on Thursday for a 10-day holiday with the nightclub boss.

She'll leave love-cheat Brian to look after their children Molly, three, and 20-month-old Lilly Sue.

Problems

Her publicist Max Clifford said: "It's Kerry's decision. The kids are going to be staying with Brian and his mum in Dublin over Christmas."

"She can relax because his mum really is the next best thing to her. They spent so much time together when she lived out there."

Kerry has spent the last two months partying with friends and letting her hair down with old flames such as Dan Corsi, 30, in a bid to cheer herself up.

But doctors finally convinced her she needed some time out and suggested The Priory - famous as a celebrity refuge and rehab centre.

Kerry checked herself into the posh clinic almost two weeks ago.

As well as the marriage bust-up, the singer had other problems to shake off, following a troubled childhood in which she went to eight schools, three refuges and lived with four sets of foster parents.

"What happened with Brian was the last straw," added Clifford.

"She needs to work through a lot of stuff. Now she's just taking every day as it comes."

"She's definitely a bit better and a bit brighter."

"We're hoping that's going to continue when she's down in Spain."

Kerry - who won a previous series of I'm A Celebrity - was crushed by her split from former Westlife singer Brian in September.

He ended the two-year marriage over the phone after they had spent months apart due to work commitments over the summer.

The Star Says: Page 6



SMITTEN: Pal Fran Cosgrave



BABY-SITTING: Husband Brian McFadden

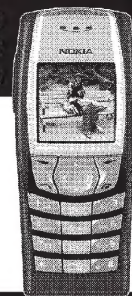
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Don't miss



STARS
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TEXTS
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LETTERS

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TOON ACES FOR AXE AFTER NIGHT ON RITZ

Date Myleene!

SEXY singer Myleene Klass has revealed she loves her silky underwear.

The former Hear'Say beauty, 26, told fans: "They're my favourite item of clothing - I couldn't be without my bras."

Even so, she chose to pose without one for this sensational shot, taken from her 2005 calendar. Myleene said: "I wasn't sure if people would want to see me every day of the year but people have been really flattered."

● To get the calendar visit

www.music-merchandise.co.uk or send a cheque for £8 + £1.80 P&P payable to Music Merchandise Company to MMC, PO Box 363, Bournemouth, BH7 6LA. She will sign the first 50 sold.



Picture: SHEILA ROCK

by JERRY LAWTON

FOUR Newcastle United stars faced the axe last night over claims they took part in a rumour at The Ritz.

Staff at the top London hotel were so angry at the players, allegedly including strikers Craig Bellamy and Patrick Kluivert, they've fired off a letter to the Premiership club.

They claimed the players were rowdy and abusive during a night at the posh pad. The hotel boasts such an exclusive clientele, bosses rarely have to complain about guests, who include top businessmen and showbiz stars.

Suites start at £800-a-night and boast antique furniture embossed with gold leaf.

Bad

The players, who were on a private visit which had nothing to do with the football club, could now face the axe as Newcastle boss Graeme Souness has drawn up a hitlist of bad boy stars he wants out.

Last week he cancelled his Christmas party fearing a similar incident.

A Newcastle United insider said: "Things must have got out of hand at The Ritz because their behaviour was bad enough for the hotel to send a letter to the club."

"It's a posh place and obviously expects a certain standard of behaviour from its guests."

"Some of the younger lads were upset with Souness for not letting them have a party."

"But maybe they'll now see it is



MAGPIES: Bellamy, above, and Kluivert



reasonable in the circumstances. Some of the players will still go out, but they'll be in small groups."

A spokesman for The Ritz said: "It is not our policy to comment on guest-related matters."

Newcastle chairman Freddy Shepherd said: "I have received no letter of complaint from The Ritz."

Newcastle lost 3-1 at Liverpool yesterday.

Souey fury: Star Sport

'Arnie sold me short'

by BILL MARTIN

MUSCLE-BOUND Arnie Schwarzenegger has been accused of duping a top lawyer who bought his £5 million mansion.

The movie man, now California governor, is being sued over a damaged swimming pool and tennis court and an outbreak of mould at the palatial property on Hollywood's famed Sunset Boulevard.

High-flying legal eagle Susan Loggans says he failed to mention significant construction faults before the sale went through.

She claims he made only "vague and incomplete references" to "serious hidden defects".

And she says he tried to hide the "real and serious problems" because he would have lost the sale or would have had to drop the price.

In her suit filed at Los Angeles Superior Court, she is claiming unspecified damages on the grounds that Arnie acted fraudulently.

A judge will now decide if he acted illegally.

Arnie, 57 - who sold the house in September - has not been available for comment.

A 1989 Mini Cooper S first owned by a member of the Kray gang sold for £11,775 at a Camberley, Surrey, car auction. It went for almost 12 times the original price of £995.

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BOY AND MAN:
Putting the finishing
touches to a snowman
in Cwmbran, Gwent

Picture: LEWIS WHYLD



IT'S SNOW MUCH FUN:
Time for sledging on the
Blackdown Hills in Devon

Picture: RICHARD AUSTIN

£7.6bn charge

BRITS will spend a staggering £7.6billion on last-minute Christmas presents.

Yesterday shopping malls and high streets across the country heaved as people rushed to get their last-gasp gifts.

A spokesman for Manchester's Trafford Centre said: "It has been a fantastic weekend and sales are up 5% on last year.

Research by Sainsbury's Bank revealed that £1.65bn of the £7.6bn final mad dash for Christmas will be put on credit cards.

Booze bargain

TESCO came top in a Daily Star survey to find the cheapest place to pick up your festive booze.

We bought 24 large cans of Carling, Stella Artois and Boddingtons, and a litre of Bailey's and Smirnoff vodka in all the top stores.

Tesco charged £61.30, ahead of Asda on £64.91. Tesco was cheapest or joint-cheapest for four of the five items.

Asda was cheapest for Carling thanks to a "48 cans for £20" promotion.

Pudding too far..

YOU could end up drink-driving this Christmas by eating too much pudding.

Booze in Christmas puddings and sherry trifles could push people over the legal drink-drive limit.

Research by insurance firm esure found 58% of adults will tuck into Xmas pudding and 29% will sample at least one portion of sherry trifle.

The survey also showed one in four adults intends to drink on Christmas Day and drive the next morning.

Girls lip service

WOMEN want a new face for Christmas. Plastic surgeons are reporting an all-time high in facial injections.

Women are opting for Botox to reduce facial lines and collagen to plump up their lips.

Women feel under intense pressure at work to look good and prove they are up to the job, research has shown.

The Harley Medical Group - which has centres all over the UK - has reported a 150% increase in "injectable treatments" during the first two weeks of December.

IT'LL BE ALL WHITE ON THE BIG NIGHT

BRITS are set for a white Christmas after blizzards hit the country yesterday.

Several inches of snow fell over the weekend across south western England, northern Scotland, the hills of Wales, and parts of Northern Ireland.

And bookies were feeling the chill more than most. Faced with a £1million pay-out if Christmas Day is snowy, they promptly slashed the odds dramatically.

Snow in Glasgow on Christmas Day was cut from 2/1 to 8/11 by Ladbrokes. London is at 11/4 and Manchester and Cardiff 3/1.

Spokesman Warren Lush said: "We've seen a flurry of bets on a white Christmas across the country.

"Money has poured in for snow in Glasgow.

"Forecasters say that a white Christmas is in the balance and these words have fuelled the biggest weather gamble this year.

"Punters seem convinced bookies will have to pay out on snow for the first time since 2001.

"And that could cost us

■ by TOM SAVAGE

£1million." The panic came as several inches of snow fell across much of the country. Some of the worst hit areas were the Cotswolds, Chilterns and much of Wales.

Two inches of snow fell on the M5 in Devon, while in Scotland temperatures dropped to -14C. Forecasters say more snow is

on the way this week in the Midlands, the South-East, South-West and even in London, where there's a 30% chance of snow on Christmas Day.

Chilly

And after a mild couple of days midweek, the chilly spell is set to return for Christmas.

"It does look as we go into Christmas Eve and

Christmas Day that we are in for very cold conditions, with sleet and snow arriving from the North-West," said Andy Bodenham of the Met Office.

"Worst affected areas are likely to be the North-West, Scotland, Ireland and Wales, but it will also spread south and east.

"Even cities, where it is always warmer, might see more than the odd flake."



Picture: WESTCOUNTRYPHOTOGRAPERS.COM

HAVING A BALL: In the seasonal mood in Bath, while, left, a motorist gets going again on Exmoor



GORD KICKED IN THE GAULS



OUT: Gordon Ramsay

Chop for Ramsay

EXCLUSIVE by PETER DYKE

FOUL-MOUTHED chef Gordon Ramsay has been given the chop from the new series of *Hell's Kitchen*.

Instead, hunky French cook Jean-Christophe Novelli will take over the celebrity kitchen when the show returns to our screens next year.

Telly bosses are confident that the 43-year-old foodie will send temperatures and ratings soaring, because he claims cooking is "just like having sex". A show source said: "It

will be quite a different kind of show, but Jean-Christophe can be just as fiery in the kitchen because he is extremely passionate about food."

Hated

Ramsay, 37, made the first series of the ITV show a massive hit, thanks to his bust-ups with the celeb chefs, including winner Jennifer Ellison.

But he won't be returning for the second season after admitting that he did not



HE'S IN: Frenchie JC is taking over *Hell's Kitchen*

enjoy training the stars to run a real restaurant. He said: "I've never dealt with so much sh*t in my life. I hated doing it."

His replacement Jean-Christophe is known as JC and has already appeared in Channel 4's *The Games*.

The saucy twice-married chef once said: "For me it is impossible to separate food and sex. Eating is a kind of foreplay."

A show insider said: "JC should create a stir in the kitchen with the female celebs."



TASTY: Actress and singer Jennifer Ellison won the first series of *Hell's Kitchen* after surviving fiery Gordon's outbursts. Now celebs in the new series will be facing a French fancy in the form of sizzling TV chef Jean-Christophe

Steve's a card

X FACTOR winner Steve Brookstein has sent judge Sharon Osbourne a Christmas card - despite her rant against him during the final of the telly talent show.

Steve, 36, said: "She was definitely on my card list - let bygones be bygones."

He added during the radio interview: "What she said off camera was even worse, but at least she believed in what she was saying."

Viewers heard Sharon, 52, blast the singer as a fake and "full of crap".



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Deadly Kim's so 3 and easy

BOO! Hiss! Who needs a pantomime villain when we've got our very own Kimberly Quinn?

Just when we thought we had the measure of her wickedness, another lover pops out of the closet. And guess what? He just happens to be white, older and influential.

Guardian columnist and Spectator wine correspondent, Simon Hoggart, 58, dad of two and married to his wife Alyson for 21 years, had strenuously denied the claims that he followed Kimberly around "like a fawning puppy" before having regular Saturday afternoon sex at a secret love nest.

Instead, he fell back on the good old fashioned "we were very good friends" gambit.

What's more, he admitted meeting Quinn for "business lunches". Just why a magazine's publisher would need to meet its wine correspondent for "business lunches" is a mystery to me – and I've been a magazine journalist for more than 20 years. Publishers rarely fraternise with journalists. That's the editor's job. Publishers cultivate advertisers. They're solely responsible for the business side.

Journos are just the hacks who fill up the pages. They scarcely even register on the publisher's radar. Unless, of course, the publisher happens to be Kimberly Quinn.

Last night, Hoggart finally decided to "clarify" matters and admit that he'd been bedding Kimberly, despite having dismissed the claims as "bullsh*t" only the day before.

Let's just rewind a mo and examine the daily routine of Quinn at her peak.

Not only is the women working full-time, out every night clawing her way up the social ladder and undergoing fertility treatment with her husband, she also found the time and energy to conduct a passionate affair with the Home Secretary and to enjoy lengthy and frequent "business lunches" with Hoggart. As a normal red-

CHEAT:
Kimberly
Quinn



described as "so sycophantic with her it was sickening". Simon, who may stand to lose his marriage as a result of his association with Quinn, once gushingly described her in a column as "the best-read non-academic I know".

So there you have it. Three distinguished older men grovelling at her feet. Three seasoned pros, who should have known better, reduced to quivering jelly.

Power-mad Quinn stands a serious chance of going down in history as one of the most truly evil temptresses of all time.

Right now, she ranks right up there with Delilah, who chopped off Samson's hair while he slept and robbed him of his legendary strength; Judith, who decapitated the enemy general Holofernes; and, of course, Salome, who demanded the head of St John the Baptist brought to her on a platter. Quinn's destructive powers put her firmly in the Top 10.

The term "femme fatale" is usually an exaggeration. Not many women literally turn out to be fatal to the men who fall under their spell. Quinn is the exception. She has proved to be as lethal as a dose of toxic shock syndrome.

I was all in favour of Blunkett stepping down as Home Sec. He'd obviously lost the plot and his hypocrisy in holding forth about family values while secretly bonking some other bloke's wife, frankly, sucked.

However, the pitiful sight of a sobbing Blunkett sacrificing high office for the misguided worship of a woman who so obviously couldn't hold a candle to him was an A-grade tearjerker. Suddenly Blunkett looked not like an arrogant and dictatorial politician, but a broken and very human man.

Every woman in Britain looked deep within her soul and wondered if she would ever have been capable of destroying Blunkett with the

blooded women who is prone to develop a headache and cry off conjugal after putting one too many loads in the washing machine, Quinn's libido astounds me.

Was she really that rampant just for sex? Or did she get off on manipulating, dominating and ultimately destroying so-called powerful men? David Blunkett was putty in her hands. Stephen Quinn still is.

Meanwhile, old Hoggart has been

ferocious heartlessness of Kimberly Quinn. Thank God, most of us were able to answer ourselves honestly that even if we'd dreamed of such vindictive behaviour, we'd never have had the ruthless ice-coldness to carry it through.

Kimberly Quinn should come with a government health warning. Gentleman, beware! A liaison with this woman could permanently nuke your life.

Do you agree with Vanessa? Text DSFELTZ followed by a space, then your comment and name, and send to 61616. Or e-mail vanessa.feltz@dailystar.co.uk, or write to Vanessa Feltz, Daily Star, Northern and Shell Building, Number 10 Lower Thames Street, London EC3R 6EN

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BRAVE FACE: Abi stood up for herself after being attacked in the ladies' loos

Picture: HADFIELD/CABARAZZI PICTURES

THE GOSS

With KATIE HIND, LEIGH PURVES and AMY WATTS

ABI'S PARTY NIGHT HELL

Police called in over club attack

SEX-SIREN Abi Titmuss is recovering after a female clubber launched herself on top of her in a vicious attack during a night out.

But our perfectly proportioned Abi, 28, stood up for herself.

Abi and pals were enjoying themselves at the Players Bar in London's West End when trouble flared in the ladies' loos. One festive reveller said: "It all happened so quickly."

"Abi was just putting on some lipstick in the toilets when this woman walked in and suddenly launched into a bitter rant at her, calling her all sorts of names before swearing at her."

Abuse

"But Abi was just completely gobsmacked, so ignored her at first."

"However, this woman was obviously eager for a scrap and carried on shouting abuse at Abi - yelling at the top of her voice that she thought Abi was a trollop."

"And that was enough for Abi. One of her friends went to get security and another clubber stepped in just as Abi was about to verbally reply."

"Abi's drink was knocked out of her hand and the glass shattered on the floor as this woman pushed her, before lunging at her, grabbing her hair."

"But another woman intervened and somehow man-

EXCLUSIVE

aged to help Abi get free. By this time though, the police had been called and were at the scene in no time. Although things had already calmed down by then.

"Security ejected the other woman and Abi was left being comforted by her pals. "She put a brave face on things because she didn't want to ruin the night out for the rest of her friends."

Last night no one at the Players Bar was available for comment, but Abi's spokesperson said: "Abi is absolutely fine and there is nothing to worry about."

"The incident is over and done with."

Abi, who releases her foxy fitness DVD next week, is now looking forward to going away with her mum on a Christmas break.

Abi said: "This year has been great for me but I have a feeling 2005 will be even better."



HOLLYWOOD hunk **Leonardo DiCaprio** got the royal seal of approval when he puckered up to **Princess Beatrice** at the UK premiere of *The Aviator* in London's Leicester Square last night. And Fergie looked on laughing with her other daughter **Eugenie**, 14, as Beatrice, 16, planted a smacker on Leo's face.

Picture: DAVE BENNETT

QUICKIES...QUICKIES...QUICKIES...QUICKIES...QUICKIES...

GORGEOUS Jennifer Ellison says she loves panto - but can't see herself taking part in one. Jen, 21, who stars in the Phantom Of The Opera film, said: "Christmas wouldn't be the same without panto. Not that I could see myself doing one. But you never know." Somehow, we doubt you'll be short of work, love.



DIVA Jennifer Lopez, 35, left, wants to star in a remake of *Dirty Dancing* 3, even though the second one went straight to DVD. An insider said: "She'd love to star in the film. The original *Dirty Dancing* flick is Jen's favourite." Sorry Jen, but **Patrick Swayze**, now 52, doesn't have the same sex appeal as he did in the 80s...



LIBERTY X singer Kevin Simm, left, is spending Christmas gearing up to star on Channel 4's *The Games*. The 24-year-old has been training by jogging twice a day and working out. And bandmate **Michelle Heaton**, 25, says the rest of the group, including **Jessica Taylor**, 24, **Kelli Young**, 22, and **Tony Lundon**, 25, will be cheering him on in the New Year.



HAVE YOU GOT SOME JUICY GOSSIP FOR US?